

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 7-9, 11-14, 42, 45-48, 52, 54-56, 59-62, 66-76, 78, 80, and 81 were pending in this application. Claims 42 and 56 have been amended hereby to further recite the invention, claim 80 has been canceled, and no claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 7-9, 11-14, 42, 45-48, 52, 54-56, 59-62, 66-76, 78, and 81 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. Claims 42 and 56 have been amended to include the previously presented subject matter of claim 80. No new matter has been added. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed August 1, 2007, claims 7-9, 11-14, 42, 45-48, 69-74, 76-79, and 81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over www.jobasia.com, Galewitz, Phil, "Desperate Hospitals Begging for Nurses," *Palm Beach Post*, Feb. 22, 1998 ("Galewitz") and further in view of "Contingency recruiters stake out sizable claims in the executive search field," *Industry Week*, August 6, 1979 ("Contingency Recruiters"). Claims 52, 54, 55, and 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over www.jobasia.com, Galewitz, and Contingency Recruiters, and further in view of www.replyto.com. Claims 56, 59-63, and 65-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over www.jobasia.com, www.replyto.com, Galewitz, and Contingency Recruiters. Claim 75 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over www.jobasia.com, Galewitz, Contingency Recruiters, and further in view of Dossin et al. "Sign-on Bonu\$e\$ Score

for Recruiters" ("Dossin"). To the extent these rejections might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claim 80 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, the subject matter of previously presented claim 80 has been incorporated into independent claims 42 and 56. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of the unclaimed subject matter in a continuing application, as it is believed that it is patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 42 and 56 are therefore allowable. Claims 7-9, 11-14, 42, 45-48, 52, 54-56, 59-62, 66-76, 78, and 81 are patentable as well at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 42 and 56 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

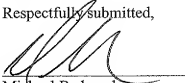
In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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